GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
MILLEDGEVILLE, GEORGIA,
November 5th, 1857.

llow-Citizens of
The Senate and House of Representatives:

I feel that it is not a mere matter of form, that I am re-ired by the Constitution, to address to you this communi-tion. Charged, as I have been, for the last four years, th the administration of the State Government and the ecution of its laws, experience has taught me the grave ponsibility of the Executive office. Familiar, as I have rned to be, with the condition, the resources, the wants d prospects of the State, I trust, I have some appreciа-n of the duties of the Legislature and of the momentous nsequences that hang upon your deliberations. You hold your hands the interests and weal of a great State; great, the events which have signalized her past progress; great, her elements of wealth and power; great, in the grow-g civilization, which her intelligence and enterprise have hieved; and greater still, in the proud destiny that awaits r, if we prove true to ourselves and the mission committed us. Inspired with the spirit of patriotism, may wisdom ide your deliberations, and the accomplishment of "the eatest good to the greatest number" crown all your actions. You have but little to do with the past, save to scrutinize e conduct of your public servants, and hold them to a rict account for their stewardship. It is your delicate task look to the future, and provide for the wants and circum-ances which it may develope. It is my province to aid ou, by such reflections and suggestions, as my favorable osition for observation, may enable me to commend to your onsideration.

The service naturally arranges itself into two general di-isions. You must have correct information of the real con-

dition of the Commonwealth; you ought to have pr er conceptions of its wants. To the best of my humble abi y, I will address myself to these two objects, as succinctl a possible.

I herewith transmit the Report of the Finance Commit e, appointed by the Executive, under legal authority, I m which you will learn the financial operations of the gov n- ment, for the year 1856, together with the condition, at te time of their investigation, of the "Treasury," the "Peni- tiary," the "Western and Atlantic Rail Road," the "Lunic Asylum," the "Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb," and te "Georgia Academy for the Blind." I also trsnsmit te Report of the Treasurer, for the financial years 1856 d 1857, from which it appears that the available balance, n the 20th ultimo, was $53,717,66. All the liabilities of te State have been promptly met. At the close of the last s- cal year, the public debt was $2,632,722,22. The Bo's issued under the act of December, 1845, to extend e Western and Atlantic Rail Road. (in amount, $125,500,0) have all been redeemed—$106,000,00, since the last sess n of the General Assembly—by funds remitted to the Trea- ry, by the Road, under the 5th Section of the act of 12th January, 1852. I suggest the importance of reinstating e sinking fund of $75,000, as provided for by the act of F- ruary 11th, 1851, to be set apart annually for the reducti of the Public Debt.

By reference to the Report of the Comptroller Gene herewith transmitted, you will find several amendments commended to be made to the Tax Laws, to which, with again enumerating them, I invite your special attenti Many of them are suggested by experience, and are nec- sary for the collection of all the revenue under existing la others by the principles of justice, applicable to the subje to which they relate. Appended to the Report of this o- cer, in conformity to Executive instruction, you will fi schedules of all the Taxable property, as returned by several Receivers of Returns for the present year. Th tables are very interesting and important; showing prosperity and increasing wealth of the State, and furni- ing a safe guide to the General Assembly, in their efforts equalize the burden of Taxation upon her citizens. You w discover the great disparity, in value, which is affixed to t several species of property, in the several counties, by t Tax payers. Some rate their negroes at $100 less than o ers, and their lands, lying adjacent, and in the same cou ties, at a far lower figure than their neighbors. It would well to enquire into the expediency of fixing by law, at ea session of the Legislature, the average value of slaves,

e ensuing year, with the view of uniformity in the tribute hich slave owners are required to pay to support the gov-nment. It is well known that large bodies of lands are vned in South-Western and Cherokee Georgia, by individ-ls who have granted them, for a nominal sum, under our verting laws. In making their returns to the Receivers, many instances, they value them at only, or a little more an, the cost of the Grant Fees; whereas, those same per-ons would not sell their lands thus held, for ten, twenty or fty times that sum. It would be proper, if practicable, to ass some law, by which such lands should be assessed ac-ording to their real value. Indeed, from an examination of he tables under consideration, it is obvious, that many per-ons have returned the whole of their lands and negroes at aluations notoriously too low, compared with the prices for hich such property readily sells at public sales. I submit, whether it would not be proper and just, in all such cases, to nake provision for assessors to be appointed, at the instance f the Receivers, to appraise property, when thus returned t an estimate, known to be less than the average market rice of such property. That taxes should be equal, and very citizen bear his proper and just proportion of the bur-len of government, is of vast importance. I throw out hese suggestions, with the view of eliciting such action as will secure that object.

In the midst of prosperity and remunerating prices for the products of Agriculture, our Banks have generally suspend-ed specie payments, resulting in panic, broken confidence, and general stagnation in commerce. As the session of the General Assembly was so near at hand, and the suspension seemed to be necessary, as a measure of self defence against the heavy drafts upon their coin, to supply the demand for spe-cie, at the North, I thought it prudent to withhold any action against them, as required by law, until the Legislature, in its wisdom, should have an opportunity of deliberating upon the matter, and directing what course ought to be pursued towards them. I therefore submit this whole subject to your consideration; and to enable you to act advisedly, I, here-with, transmit to you copies of the late returns of the vari-ous Banks of Georgia, exhibiting their condition, made in pursuance of executive proclamation. It is gratifying that these statements afford evidence of their solvency. Will you legalize their suspension and fix a day, in the future, when they shall resume specie payments? As a general rule, it is safest to meddle as little as possible with the cur-rency of the country. The laws of trade regulate it best. Hence, in view of the crisis that is upon us, complicated, as it is, with the interests of Agriculture and the price of its

productions, it would seem to be wise to tolerate the suspen sion, in reference to all those institutions, which, upon ex amination, shall prove to be sound and solvent. It is no only legitimate, but the duty of the Legislature, to invest gate thoroughly the condition of the Banks; to institute diligent enquiry into their mode of transacting business, and by the use of all the powers—even to sending for person and papers—which may be necessary, to ascertain whethe they have confined their operations strictly within their ap propriate spheres, or whether they have embarked in specu lations, by placing their funds in New York, to shave South ern paper, at a heavy discount, or in any other manner, de parted from the objects contemplated by their Charters. I it is due to the country, that a full exposition be made; it is the only manner in which the public can be protected. I such abuses shall be detected, let the Legislature, in grant ing them tolerance in their present predicament, put them upon terms which will prevent their recurrence for the future.

I submit the annual Reports of the Superintendent of the Western and Atlantic Rail Road for the years 1856 and 1857. They exhibit this great State work to be in a prosperous condition, and just upon the eve of realizing the expectations in which it originated. They leave me but little to add, to enable you to understand its operations and judge of the fidelity of its management. Its gross earnings from the 30th September, 1853, to the 30th of September, 1857, which covers the four years of my administration, have been $3,052,260,82. The working expenses of the Road, for the same period, have been $1,329,411,51, and the net earnings $1,722,849,31. How has this large amount of net profits been disposed of? Has it been squandered or applied to necessary expenditures? These are questions which should be answered to the satisfaction of the people, and when thus answered, the senseless clamor which is raised against the management of the Road, for mere decency's sake, ought to cease. Then see how the account stands.

Net earnings for four years,	$1,722,849,31
Net earnings were disposed of as follows, to-wit, for 1854:	
Paid State Treasurer,	$50,000,00
" Interest on Bonds,	11,906,90
" for new Locomotives,	24,211,65
" " " Cars,	68,580,57
" " " Buildings,	102,727,73
" " Construction, new Track and Iron, and Right of Way,	80,696,21

	For 1855.	
Paid State Treasurer,	100.000,00	
" Interest on Bonds,	15,536,30	
" for new Locomotives,	20,053,50	
" " " Cars,	44,141,81	
" " " Depot Buildings,	13,290,09	
" " Construction, Right of Way, Iron, and New Track,	236,025,53	
	For 1856.	
" State Treasury,	43,500,00	
" Interest on Bonds,	9,145,00	
" for new Locomotives,	92,183,48	
" " " Cars,	112,082,05	
" " " Depot Buildings,	42,988,90	
" " Construction, Iron Rails, and New Track,	122,880,04	
" for expenses incurred previous to Jan'y, 1854, Tennessee claims,	67,981,21	
	For 1857.	
" State Treasurer,	100,000,00	
" Interest on Bonds,	7,265,65	
" for new Engines,	107,752,72	
" " " Cars,	97,852,16	
" " " Depot Buildings.	52,062,96	
" " Construction, Iron Rails, New Track,	100,047,91	$1,722,849,31

Whether these expenditures were proper, is left for fair minded men to determine. They, at least, seem suited to the enterprise, and cannot be considered unreasonable, when it is recollected, that the Road is not even yet completed and thoroughly equipped for the annually increasing business, it is compelled to accommodate. At all events, it will scarcely be asserted by any, having a due regard to veracity, that the money has been either stolen or wasted. But these heavy expenditures will not be required, hereafter. The time has come for the patience of the friends of the Road to have its reward. I fully concur with the Superintendent, that henceforth, under proper management, it will pay into the State Treasury $350,000, annually.

It may be suggested, however, that the mismanagement is not in the application of the net earnings, but in the expenses of maintaining and working the Road. Let us see how the State Road compares, in this respect, with other Roads in the State—what proportion the current expenses bear to the gross earnings. The gross earnings of the Georgia Rail Road, for the last four years, were $4,016,346,14;

the expenses for working and maintaining it, for the san period, were $1,848,617,02, or about 45 per cent. Th gross earnings of the Macon and Western Road, for the fo years, from Deeember, 1852, to December, 1856, we $1,290,445,00, and the working expenses for the same per od, $469,340,00, or 50⅓ per cent. The gross earnings the Central Rail Road, ineluding the line from Gordon Eatonton, from December 1st, 1853, to December 1st, 185 and the line from Millen to Augusta, to the 1st of January 1856, were $4,697,269,68; and the current expenses, for th same period, were $2,219,043,17, or 47¼ per cent. Thes are confessedly the best managed Company Roads in Geo gio. But the Western and Atlantic Rail Road eompare favorably with them, in referenee to the point under consid eration. Its gross earnings, for the last four years, ar $3,052,260,82, and its working expenses, for the same peri od, $1,329,411,51, or a little less than 43½ per cent. It woul seem that the eountry might afford to be satisfied, if th State Road be managed as cheaply as those of private Com panies. Certainly, the fact is worthy of consideration, whe its administration is branded with corruption and misman agement.

The Atlantie and Gulf Rail Road Company, chartered by the last Legislature, has been duly organized. The Board of Commissioners, designated in the Charter, met in Mil ledgeivlle, on the 31st of March 1856, and made the necessary arrangements for opening books of subseription for stock at Milledgeville, and sundry other points in the State. On the 22d day of October, 1856, six of the said Commissioners submitted to me, a list of subseribers, showing subscriptions to the amount of six hundred thousand dollars, and the amount subseribed by each, attested by their affidavit, that the subscribers so reported, will be fully able to pay up the sums subscribed by them and that the subseriptions were bona fide. Wherenpon, on the 26th of Oetober, 1856, by virtue of the 2d. section of the Aet of Incorporation, I sub scribed for stock, to the extent of $500,000 00 in the name of the State of Georgia, and eaused the subscription list to be deposited in the office of the Comptroller General. On the same day, the sum of 1,100,000 00, being subseribed, I issued an order, as directed by the third section of the Act of Incorporation, for an eleetion of nine Direetors, to be held in Milledgeville, on the 4th day of Deeember, 1856, under the superintendanee of the Commissioners. They met accordingly and eleeted James P. Seriven, William B. Hodgson, J. Stoddard, Hiram Roberts, W. H. Long, Charles J. Munnerlyn, J. R. Stapler, A. T. MeIntyre and E. R. Young as a Board of Direetors, who elected James P. Scriven their President.

T enable the Legislature to understand clearly the con- of this important enterprise, in which the State has rily embarked, by subscribing for one million of its stock, ewith transmit a communication from James P. Scriven resident, with the accompanying documents to which rers. The fifth section of the act of incorporation pro- le that "no payment shall be made by the State until Savannah, Albany and Gulf Rail Road Company' and Brunswick and Florida Rail Road Company' shall have linquished any right which either of said Companies have aim to interfere with the location of said Road, on account ay privileges granted in the charter of either of them." ie relinquishments have not been executed and therefore e enterprise cannot move forward. The documents re- rd to contain the fruitless negotiations, between the par- s interest, touching the relinquishment required; and by rful examination, you will be enabled to determine who, ny one, is to blame for their failure. The intention of rgia is declared in the Charter to be "to provide a main x across her territory, connecting the Atlantic with the of Mexico." The object is worthy of a great State and so portant to her southern section, that I trust it may not efeated, and that, in your wisdom, you will take such ther action, in the premises, as will secure its accomplish- nt.

n the subject of State aid to works of Internal improve- nt, I have nothing to add to what I said in my last bienni- message. In few words, my view of sound and safe ncy, confirmed by mature reflection, is this: Georgia oc- pies the gap between the southern spur of the Alleghany ntains and the Atlantic. At an immense cost, she has onstructed the Western and Atlantic Rail Road, which taps great west, at Chattanooga; affords transportion for its oducts to the sea board, and feeds the various roads which nect with its southern terminus, at Atlanta. In charter- new rail roads, the Legislature should never lose sight the policy of protecting her State Road from ruinous com- ition; she should be careful, not to cripple the efficiency company roads, which have been built by private capital; should preserve the symmetry of our system of Inter- Improvements, so that, in its further developement and wth to maturity, it shall, as a primary object, promote her n wealth and the prosperity of her towns and seaports. gusta, Savannah and Brunswick, are the three points of mmerce, at which the productions of our agriculture, must d their market and their door of exit to the marts of the rld. The perfection of our Internal Improvement system, well as the interests of agriculture, requires that each of

these commercial points shall be connected, as direct
possible, with each section of the State, so that all our po
may enjoy a choice of markets for the sale of their prod
The State may aid in the construction of lines of road
jected, in reference to such connections, upon guarantie
security, that prevent the possibility of ultimate loss.
yond this, she ought not to go. As to the mode in w
she should extend her aid, I prefer the loan of her credit
a given amount, per mile, to a subscription for stock.
the former method, she can secure herself by statutory
upon the road and its appurtenances; whereas, by the la
she must rely upon the success and profits of the enterpr
In chartering the Atlantic and Gulf Road, the last Legi
ture seemed to favor the policy of taking stock, in aid of t
work. I sanctioned the bill, not that I approved of that
ture, but because it fell so clearly within the principle of
policy, in reference to State aid, which I advocate, and
road itself is of such immediate and paramount necessity
the southern portion of Georgia, that I deemed it better
yield my scruples on that score, than to defeat the no
enterprise.

I refer you to the report of the Principal Keeper, for
formation, as to the condition of the Penitentiary. Since t
first of January last, the cash system has been rigidly enfo
ed, with results that fully justify it. I renew the recomme
dation to enlarge and repair thoroughly the buildings, or
move the Institution to some other point, at which materi
can be purchased cheaper and the convicts, worked mo
profitably. In its present condition, it is disreputable to t
State, unsafe and insecure as a place of imprisonment, an
utterly incapable of being made to answer the purpose f
which it was designed.

I submit the biennial report of the Trustees, Superinte
dant and Rresident Physician of the Lunatic Asylum. Th
institution is among the most important enterprises in whic
the State has ever embarked; an honor to her philanthrop
and liberality. The energy, zeal and adaptedness of th
Resident Physician to the duties of his post entitle him t
the warmest commendation and confidence. As an act o
mere justice his salary should be increased.

The extension of the building is progressing rapidly t
completion. I transmit the report of the building commis
sioners, showing their disbursements of the appropriatio
made by the last Legislature. Upon examination, you wil
find, that the amount will not be sufficient to pay the contrac
tors. The deficit will be $11,000. I recommend an im
mediate appropriation of that sum, in order to prevent delay,
loss to the contractors and serious detriment to the interest
of the State.

This amount will complete the edifice ; but additional appropriations will be necessary to fit it up, for the use intended. It is constructed upon the most approved plan, with all the fixtures and aparatus which experience has demonstrated to be best adapted to the accommodation of such inmates, and in the end, most economical. The heating, ventilating and cooking aparatus and wash house, will require $23,500 00. The Engine House, chimney, well, airducts, &c., will require $13,000 00. These fixtures are absolutely indispensable. The Gas works, complete, for lighting the building will require $4,600 00. To alter, improve, cover and plaster with Mastic the old, to correspond with the new building, will require $7,500 00. The aggregate of these appropriations will be but $48,600 00. The report of the Building Commissioners will exhibit more fully these items and the reasons for their necessity. I cannot doubt but the means will be promptly supplied. The Legislature has never disbursed money from the treasury which reflects so much credit upon the State. It awakens the pride of every liberal minded Georgian. and what is better still, it gives a retreat of comfort to the poor victims of affliction who, by a mysterious Providence, have been deprived of reason, and affords a hope of their restoration to their families and to society.

In this connection, it is submitted, that a reasonable amount should be appropriated for the compensation of the Building Commissioners. They have been engaged three years, in this service ; their duties have been responsible and they have performed them faithfully and economically.

The claims of the "Academy for the Blind" and of the "Georgia Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb," will be laid before you by their respective reports herewith submitted. I cordially commend these benevolent Institutions to your fostering care.

Under the direction of the last General Assembly, providing for the survey of the Okefenokee Swamp, and for other purposes, I appointed Richard L. Hunter, Civil Engineer, to perform the service required by that act. The undertaking was arduous and hazzardous, and has required his continued labor from the 3d of December, 1856, to the present time. Four months of the time were spent in the work of actual survey. The expenses of the survey, including cost of the scientific analysis of specimens of soil, were $2,780 51, and paid out of the Contingent Fund ; and he has received from the same fund, in part-payment for his services, the sum of $479 49. I herewith transmit the report of the Civil Engineer, and, looking to the hazzard, the labor, the time consumed and the seientific skill required, I express the opinion, that he should receive the additional sum of $3,500, as compensation for his services.

The last General Assembly appropriated $7,500 for r
pairing the State House, and $5,000 for repairing the Exe
utive Mansion. Finding these sums wholly inadequate
the purpose designed and that it would be almost lost to t
State, without the use of a larger sum, I did not hesitate
draw upon the Contingent Fund for the deficit. By so d
ing, the repairs, as far as they go, are substantial, and t
Public Buildings are in fair condition. The aggragate su
appropriated was $12.500; the amount expended is $1
394 81. The vouchers for the varions sums paid ont, a
filed in the Executive office, subject to yonr inspection.
should be observed, that a part of this expenditure is n
properly chargeable to repairs. In November, 1855, t
stables, carriage house, bathing room and poultry house a
tached to the Mansion yard, were consumed by fire. Thes
had to be supplied by new buildings, so that not more tha
$5,000 have been expended, in repairs proper, to the Execu
tive dwelling. No appropriation will be required to pay fo
the excess of cost of repairs over and above the appropria
tion. Considerable new furniture for the Mansion, the Leg
islative Halls, and the several Executive Departments wa
indispensable. This I have purchased and you should mak
an appropriation to pay the bills. I have had the publi
square graded and enclosed with a substantial new fence
But the cost to the State is insignificant. The Penitentiary
being overcrowded with convicts, who could not be profita
bly employed within its walls, this portion of the work ha
been performed by them. I trust it will meet the sanctio
of the Legislature. The condition of the public building
is now such, that an annual appropriation of $250 00, to
gether with such work, as can be conveniently done by the
convicts, under the direction of the Governor, will preserve
them, in good keeping, for an indefinite period. I recommend
such an appropriation.

I renew the recommendation to remove the Arsenal, and,
upon proper compensation to the respective denominations,
the removal also of the Churches from the public square.—
These structures are real eyesores, and will always be an
obstacle to its permanent and tasteful ornament.

You will learn by painful experience that the Legislative
Halls are too small for the comfortable accommodation of
the Legislature. I renew the recommendation to enlarge
the State House, according to the plan submitted, by Messrs.
Sholl and Fay, to the last General Assembly.

I recommend the repeal of the Act of March 4th, 1856,
which requires the State Printer to report and to furnish
daily, to each Senator and Representative, a report of the
proceedings of the General Assembly. That officer has

no preperation to execute this service. He is entitled te of thanks for it. It will cost the State not less than 00; an amount far beyond any benefit that may accrue h public interest.

e State Library is gradually increasing in the number alue of its collections, under the annual appropriations set apart for that purpose. I herewith transmit a cat- e of the books it contains, and respectfully recommend ease of the salary of the Librarian.

e last General Assembly, by an Act approved March 856, authorised the Governor "*to employ a competent yor, and have surveyed and sold, a vacant square of land in y of Columbus, as the property of the State.* James H. lton Esq., was duly appointed to perform this service ; eing enjoined by the Mayor and Council, claiming it e property of the city, I directed him to obtain a con- nce of the cause, until the meeting of the Legislature, ler, that the title might be investigated and, if possible, the expense of further litigation. I therefore invite attention to this subject.

is ascertained, that the Great Seal of the State has been erfeited and that forged Grants of lands in Georgia, are t, authenticated by such seals. This, together with ct, that the Seal is stamped upon wax and attached by to Grants and other documents requiring such authen- on, is cumbersome and inconvenient and easily imita- suggests the propriety of dispensing with the wax ball so altering it, that the impression may be made on the r.

call special attention to the condition of the Numerical l Books, in the Executive Department. They are val- e to the State and and indispensable for the investiga- of titles. But they are in a state of ruinous mutilation; indings broken and many pages entirely worn out or so that they are incapable of being repaired. Several em have been copied in elegant style, and when the s shall have been fully completed and compared, under superintendance of the Governor, I would recommend he be authorised to allow such compensation for them e may consider adequate.

would respectfully, but earnestly impress upon the Leg- ure the justice of increasing the salaries of Judicial and cutive officers. They were fixed at a time of low prices. the expenses of living are, at least fifty, per cent. greater they were then. The labors of these functionaries onerous. They occupy their whole time, and for their ient performance, require experience and cultivated d. Is it right, that their compensation should afford but

a meagre subsistence for their families? I hope I sh
pardoned for referring specially to the Governor's salar
can speak of it from experience, and being about to r
without the imputation of selfishness. I know that wi
utmost economy compatible with tolerable gentilit
cannot spend less than $5,000 00 annually. Looking
Judges' salaries; what a pittance is left, after defra
their travelling expenses? No wonder, our public me
lured by the attractions of Federal offices, turn away
those of the State. Is this just? Is it sound policy?
reputable to the character of Georgia, with a ta
wealth of six hundred millions? Reflect upon the exp
of the Clerkships of the two Houses of the Legislatu
They swell to the enormous sum of $35,000 00; equ
two-thirds of your appropriations for the "Civil Estal
ment". A suitable and much needed retrenchment, i
single item, would enable you to pay adequate salari
your Judicial and Executive officers. I submit these
gestions to your enlightened sense of justice.

In my last biennial message, I called the attention of
General Assembly to a proposition from the Governo
Florida, to suspend the suit in the Supreme Court of
United States, in relation to the boundary line between
State and this, with the view of endeavoring to settle
controversy by negotiation, and asked them "to adopt s
measures as would enable the negotiation to be ente
upon." But the Legislature adjourned without taking
action on the subject. I therefore felt it my duty, know
the friendly disposition of Georgia towards Florida, to o
a correspondence with the Governor of the latter St
which resulted in a proposition by Governor Broome,
adopt the terminal points of the present recognised line
the true terminal points of the boundary line, to be res
veyed, corrected and marked, provided it is shown by eit
party that the present line is incorrect." I accepted
proposition in the following words: "Of course my acce
ance of your proposition can have no force, until ratified
the Legislature of Georgia. So far however, as I am auth
ised, I accept it. But I have no power to appoint a surve
or, nor appropriation to defray the expense of resurvey.
But the Legislature of Georgia will convene on the first
November, and I will submit the whole subject, with o
correspondence, and cheerfully recommend them to ta
such action, as will enable my successor to bring the matt
to a final termination. I entertain no doubt but the Leg
lature will promptly do so." It is proper to observe that t
Governor of Florida, although content with its termi
points, is of the opinion that the present recognised line

fectly surveyed and marked and crooked. All that pposition contemplates, besides agreeing to the termi- ints, is that, that line shall be resurveyed and re-mark- rovided it shall be shown by either party that it is im- t. If true, it is the interest of both States, that the ould be correctly run, and well defined; and as Geor- acting entirely on the defensive, not wishing to en- her territory at the expense of Florida, I promptly ac- l the proposed basis of settlement and respectfully sub- e same for your favorable consideration. It is but e to say, that throughout the entire correspondence, the nor of Florida, exibited the most amicable spirit and most respect for the feelings and rights of this State, which was most cordially reciprocated on my part.

Without entering into the argument, I renew the recom- nation, for a Geological survey of the State, so impera- demanded by its vast undeveloped agricultural and al resources. The expense of such a work is abso- insignificant, compared with its beneficial results.— the Legislature continue to refuse encouragement for nprovement of the soil? Shall we never see the day, science shall direct the enterprise of the husbandman, xplore the treasures of our mountains.

he necessity of revising and amending the Militia laws, to render them efficient, for the purpose designed, has en been presented to the General Assembly, without ing favorable action, that I feel as if I am obtruding up- our consideration an unwelcome theme, by renewing ubject. But such, in the judgment of the Executive, e magnitude and importance of the object, that I venture to invite special attention to it. The military power e right arm of the government. We depend upon it, to ce the civil laws of the land, if resisted by numbers cient to require its interposition, to crush insurrection repel invasion. A standing army is repugnant to the acter of our government, and therefore a citizen soldiery r only reliance, for all the emergencies, which may call the employment of military force. Are our liberties h preserving? Are our civil rights and institutions, ciently valuable to be maintained and defended? Ours g the only government, on earth, that recognises the lity and soverignty of the people, it is despised by despots, watch with hopeful anxiety, the opportunity for suc- ful assault, and with evident gratification, every sym- of fatal civil discord. Can it be expected then, that we o enjoy a perpetual reign of peace and that our ca- to greatness and renown will be unimpeded by the k and calamities of war? Our territory stretches from

the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from Lake Superior
Gulf of Mexico. Our population is increasing with unp
pled rapidity, our interests are diversified and conflic
the social institutions of the South differ from those o
North and they are relentlessly assailed by the Abolitio
whose policy, if triumphant will drive us from the Unio
to the more terrible degradation of submission to the
gressions. Shall we lie supinely upon our backs and
the delusive phantom" of peace and fraternity? Shal
make no preparation, for self defence and self pr
vation, when every year brings nearer to our door
assassin and incendiary? I am sufficiently hopef
the future. I would not sketch exagerated picture
our prospect. I would not too readily anticipate the ho
of the storm and the tempest. But if history be true
past leads us to expect difficulties and the voice of patrio
and wisdom admonishes us to prepare for them. Even
our political horizon is draped in clouds and the deep
terings of discontent are heard, from one extreme to the
er of the Union. Sooner than we suppose, we may be
ed to defend our rights and honor by the courage of our
ple and the strength of our arms. Are we ready? On
contrary, we have almost no organised military force.
militia laws are disregarded. Scarcely a district in
State is properly officered. Our people are unarmed
untaught in the art of war. The effective military stre
of the State is not and cannot be ascertained, under e
ing laws. I respectfully submit to the Legislature, whe
this State of things ought to be permitted longer to ex
Is it compatible with the honor and dignity of the St
Is it not fearfully hazardous to our safety within and
without? Is it not, in truth, an invitation for aggressi
What is the remedy? We must have a thorough militia
ganization, with such regulations, as will render the sys
capable of enforcement. We must have a sufficient num
of men trained in military tactics to officer the forces of
State. The Georgia Military Institute (whose report
herewith submitted,) is rapidly supplying this deside
tum, and therefore, it should be fostered by the Legis
ture with the utmost liberality. We ought to have a v
organized and drilled volunteer corps in every county
the State; and therefore the formation of companies sho
be encouraged. This may be effectually done, by exem
ing from military duty, except in time of war, invasion or
surreetion, all between the ages of eighteen and forty-f
years, who may have served, for seven years continuou
in any company. The military spirit should be fostered
This may be done by raising and setting a part a func
defray the expenses of an annual military encampment,

h time and place as the Commander-in-Chief may order. ch convocation will give uniformity in drill, secure the forcement of discipline, cultivate fraternal feeling among corps and in some degree, inure them to the usages and dships of the field. Such a fund as may be required for purpose can be raised, by substituting a small commutan tax, in lieu of actual military duty, in time of peace, the option of the citizen. Our people, liable to perform litary service, ought to be furnished with arms. It is n to rely upon the pittance doled out, by the Gen- l Government, under the act of Congress, for arm- the Militia of the United States. The supply from s source, is inadequate to furnish even the few volun- r companies scattered over the State. Hence, the Leg- ature should either make an annual appropriation for this rpose or establish an Armory, for the manufacture of arms. he latter, it is believed, will prove the more efficient and the end, the more economical. I earnestly invoke your vorable consideration of this important branch of the pub- service.

It is needless to adduce argument, to convince intelligent en of the educational wants of Georgia. It is demonstrated the fact, that there are many thousand adults, in our idst, who can neither read nor write, and as many poor ildren who must be forever debarred the blessings of edu- tion, in consequence of the poverty of their parents; by e great deficiency of teachers to supply the demand in al- ost every section of the State; by the character of our litical institutions, which are based upon the assumed ca- city of the people for self government; by the fact, that o many of our children are sent to distant States for educa- on, where they are liable to imbibe doctrines hostile to our eculiar social organization, and are surrounded by influen- es calculated to impart an anti-Southern tone to their senti- ents and feelings; by the crime that burdens our criminal ockets, and levies its thousands of tribute upon the earnings f honest industry, to support paupers and prisons; by the iolence and corruption that desecrate the ballot box, at all ur popular elections; by the exhaustion of the soil, under a ystem of Agriculture that glories in excluding the applica- ion of scientic principles. I am aware, that education, to e effective, must command the zeal and appreciative ener- ies of the parents of each succeeding generation. I am qually aware, that the establishment of any general scheme, vill require, in the end, a large expenditure of money. But, s it may not be accomplished in a day or a year, so the en- ire amount need not be appropriated at once. It must be a work of time, and its fruits gathered through successive years

of patience and toil. But shall this be an argument
postponing indefinitely its commencement? Is it not rat
an incentive to speedy action, stimulated by the prompti
of patriotism and philanthropy? But the obligation of
Legislature rests upon special grounds. The Constitut
is mandatory. ARTICLE IV. *Section* XIII. declares t
"The arts and sciences shall be promoted, in the establi
ment of one or more seminaries of learning, and the Leg
lature *shall*, as soon as conveniently may be, give such furth
donations and privileges to those already established, as m
be necessary to secure the objects of their institution; and
shall be the duty of the General Assembly, at their ne
session (that is, the next session after the adoption of t
Constitution) to provide effectual means for the improveme
and permanent security of the funds and endowments
such institutions." What has been done to carry into effe
this clause of your Constitution? How little? It has refe
ence mainly to the State University, which had been cha
tered in 1785. Hence, it is obvious, that it is the *sworn* d
ty of the General Assembly, to place our State Universi
upon the footing contemplated by its wise and patriot
founders, or, in other words, "give it such donations an
privileges as may be necessary to secure the objects of i
institution." Indeed, the whole subject of education is con
fided to the General Assembly, with the *positive injunction* t
such action as may be proper to supply the wants of th
State. That contracted policy which is ever standing a
the door of the Treasury, with a flaming two-edged sword
is but little better than moral treason to the Constitution
which, for more than half a century, has been pleading fo
conformity on the part of those who swear to obey. Educa
tion is the friend of the State. It will elevate the people
It will diminish crime and the expense of executing the
laws. It will prize out the poor from the mire into which
innocent poverty has sunk them, and place them on an in-
tellectual equality with the favored sons of fortune. It will
dig from the mine many an unpolished gem, to glitter in the
crown of cultivated society. It will stimulate enterprise,
and direct its energies to profitable objects. It will dig-
nify labour, and open new channels for capital. It will dis-
inter the mineral wealth of the State, and add millions to the
productions of Agriculture. It will bring into the field of
science an array of mind that will adorn our escutcheon, and
dazzle the world by its achievements. In a word, Georgia
must fail of her great mission, without the adoption of a
wise and comprehensive educational policy. Away, then,
with that narrow stinginess which begrudges a dollar to such
a cause, while it is often wasteful of thousands, upon objects

possess little or no merit. Go forward boldly, firmly, ally, to meet the wants of the State. Adjust your me to the character of our population. Apply to task your wisest deliberations. Impart to it the element elf vindication and self support. Make it simple, in its ils, and dependent, for its success and growth, upon the ntary support of the people.

an such a system of Common School education be de- d? What has been accomplished in other States, can lone here. Upon so delicate and difficult a subject, I sent the outline of a plan with diffidence. But I make venture, for what it is worth, hoping that it may, at least, ve suggestive of something better.

. Authorise each county, at its option, to be divided into mmon School Districts, of such dimensions, that children walk from their several boundaries to the school-houses e located in the centres.

2. Let each District be clothed with the power of self- ation, and the appointment of a Treasurer.

3. Let each District, by public meeting annually to be d, declare what sum they are willing to raise for Common hool purposes therein, to be collected by taxation, as the te Tax is now collected by law, and to be paid over to the strict Treasurer.

4. Upon the Report of the District Treasurer to the Ex- utive, of the amount actually collected, let the Governor authorised to draw his warrant on the State Treasury, a like sum, to be paid to the said District Treasurer, hich, together with the money thus collected by voluntary xation, shall constitute a Common School fund for such strict, for the year, for which it may be intended.

5. Let the Common School District Treasurer be required give bond and security, under the approval of the Inferi- Court of the county, for the faithful application of the nd, and to make annual returns to the Inferior Court, on e first Monday in January, in each year, accompanied ith vouchers for his disbursements.

The advantages of this plan are palpable. First, it is mple; secondly, it addresses itself to the voluntary action the people of each District. If they wish a school, they n have it; if they do not, it will not be forced upon them. hirdly, this appeal to the voluntary principle, will beget ought and debate, so that, if rejected at first, truth will nally prevail, and the system be adopted. It will therefore rove to be a growing, self-vindicating, self-sustaining sys- m. Fourthly, it meets the objection which is so formida- le, that, in some sections, the population is so sparse, that e Common School system is impracticable. It is intended

to operate only where there are inhabitants, and even th alone upon the condition, that they are willing and ready to their part towards it. Lastly, the absence of school pri leges will no longer deter immigration to destitute regio This plan will invite immigration, and thus soon fill up t uninhabited Districts.

It may be thought that the adoption of such a system w at once, create a demand for money which the State Treas ry cannot meet. That it will require a considerable sum money is obvious; but not so much as to deter from the e periment. It will not be adopted in every county of t State, at first—much less by every School District. Ma will not have the population; many will reject it, for yea until they have discussed it thoroughly, and risen to a prop appreciation of education; many more, either from in bility or disinclination, will impose on themselves a ve light tax. Therefore, the amount called for, from the Sta Treasury, will, in the infancy of the system, be compar tively small. Besides, in this particular form, it need not perpetual. When it shall have diffused population and t blessings of education over the State, it can be modified experience may show to be necessary. The great desider tum, for the present, is to arouse our people to the impo tance of the subject. When this shall have been accor plished, they will not stop to weigh dollars and cents again education.

But this, nor any other system of education, can be ca ried into effect, without a vast increase of the corps of teac ers. How can the requisite number be supplied? Th mode is simple, if the Legislature will respond to th promptings of a liberal spirit. We have several denomin tional Colleges in Georgia, founded by private enterpris Why should not the Legislature endow an Agricultural Pr fessorship, in one of each denomination, upon the conditio that it will educate gratuitously, a specified number of youn men, in each Congressional District, to be selected as th Legislature may direct, who shall pledge themselves to teac a given number of years, after their graduation, in the Di trict from which they were selected? This will rapidl supply educated teachers, native born, and sympathisin with Southern interests and institutions.

As an additional means of obtaining native teachers, le the State educate, at her own expense, in the State Univer sity, one young man, from each county of the State, to b chosen by the Inferior Court thereof, and to be pledged t teach a given number of years, in the county from which h shall have been chosen. This will very soon supply th deficiency, and render us independent of those itinerant ad

venturers from other States, who are too often hostile to our peculiar institutions.

But our necessities do not stop here. We need a University proper. Such, its founders designed our State College to be; and the Constitution, as I have shown, has made it obligatory on the General Assembly to carry that design into effect. When young men have been graduated, whither can they resort, if they desire to pursue a course of study, in the advanced sciences? Finding no suitable Institution, for such purposes, at home, they are compelled to go abroad, or to abandon their high and laudable aspirations. The consequence is, that most of our educated men, greatly to the detriment of the Commonwealth, plunge into politics, as the only path to distinction, or permit their cultivated powers to rust in inglorious ease.

That this, or some other scheme, for the object indicated, should be adopted, is obvious to all who reflect upon the educational wants of the State. Indeed, past attempts demonstrate the hold which the subject has upon the public mind. It seems, however, that they have all been baffled by the idea, that the pecuniary means cannot be furnished. But this difficulty will vanish from the mind, if the resources and increasing wealth of the State be duly estimated. As a Georgian, I am proud to believe, that she is able to accomplish whatever she dare attempt, if the object be worthy of her renown, and within the competency of patriotic energy and enterprise.

Touching our Federal relations, the Executive is in possession of no information, that does not meet the eye of every close observer of passing events. We have no indication of any abatement of abolition hostility to the institution of Southern slavery. The signs of the times forebode the same excitement, for the future, which has disturbed the harmony of the Union, for the last twenty-five years. Reckoning Delaware, which we may safely do, as virtually a non-slaveholding State, the equelibrium between the North and the South, in the Senate of the United States, is already permanently destroyed. This inequality will be rapidly increased, by the accession of the many new States to be formed, in quick succession, from the public domain. What then is the future security of the South? It is scarcely to be hoped for, in the Constitutional guaranties, which the South has a right to claim; for the Free Soil sentiment, already in the ascendency, and totally regardless of Constitutional obligations, will be still more potent and maddened into more intolerable insolence, by the consciousness of power. It is, therefore, a painful truth, that, in the present aspect of affairs, our surest ground of security, is to be found in a po-

litical organization, who, for the sake of the Union, will
spect our rights. Such an organization now exists. I
composed of the South and a large portion of the people
the North, who, whilst a majority of them differ from us
the abstract question of slavery, yet co-operate with us
maintaining our rights. So long as it can preserve its
cendancy, we may expect security. But how fickle and
stable is such a reliance! How humiliating, to feel that
Constitution, in its purity, has ceased to be the bulwark
our safety! It is hoping almost against hope, to expe
such an organization to stand against the growing stren
of Abolition fanaticism. Our friends in the non-slavehol
ing States are annually becoming weaker, and, in view
the large number of non-slaveholding States which must
carved out of the Territories, they must inevitably fall,
last, and leave the South, in a minority, to fight her own b
tles. Who can say how soon these events may not be p
cipitated upon us? Fanaticism, like the tides of the Oce
never rests; but, unlike the tides of the Ocean, it nev
ebbs. It will roll on to triumph, unless it be baffled by
united South, resolved to preserve her rights or die in
struggle. Let such unanimity be encouraged and prom
ted. As for Georgia, she has taken her position. We w
plead the Constitution, as long as there is hope; we will
operate with our Northern friends, as long as, by such
ganization, we can preserve our rights; we will cling to t
Union, as long as it shall shelter us from aggression. But
all these fail, and we be compelled to choose between d
honor, and the alternative of the "Georgia Platform," w
will face the storm, with the unflinching firmness of the m
tyr's courage.

In closing this communication, and retiring from the E
ecutive office, I avail myself of the occasion to express m
unfeigned gratitude for the confidence reposed in me, by t
people of Georgia. That I may have committed errors,
readily admit; but conscious of having endeavored to di
charge my duties faithfully, I cheerfully commit my admi
istration to the verdict of impartial history, and earnestly i
voke Heaven's richest blessings upon my native State.

HERSCHEL V. JOHNSON.